

**SCOPING STATEMENT
COPPER RIDGE SHALLOW GAS PROJECT
Anadarko E&P Company LP
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office**

Description of Project

Anadarko E&P Company LP (Anadarko) has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office that Anadarko proposes to explore and potentially develop a shallow gas project located within the administrative boundary of the BLM's Rock Springs Field Office. The proposed Copper Ridge Shallow Gas project (Copper Ridge Project) area is generally located in Townships 16 and 17 North, and Ranges 100 through 101 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Sweetwater County, Wyoming, as shown the map (last page).

The proposed project facilities would overlay and jointly utilize certain existing oil and gas facilities and infrastructure. The total project area encompasses 24,953.01 acres, of which approximately 11,564.91 acres are federal surface and minerals, approximately 1,280 acres are State of Wyoming lands, and approximately 12,108.12 acres are private surface and minerals. Anadarko and its affiliated companies own most of the private surface and mineral estate. Access to the area, as is the case with existing facilities would be via U.S. Highway 430, Sweetwater County Road No. 4-26, and existing roads.

The Copper Ridge Project area is overlies an area already developed by two existing oil and gas projects including the Brady Field and the Jackknife Spring Field. Drilling operations within the Brady and the Jackknife Spring fields began in 1972 and the resulting production continues today. Since 1972, a total of 59 producing wells have been drilled and developed. Eight additional, non-producing wells have been plugged, abandoned, and reclaimed.

Anadarko proposes drilling a maximum of 89 wells on 160 acre spacing and utilizing much of the existing infrastructure and surface facilities including access roads, drill pads, and pipeline corridors for the Copper Ridge project. Drilling is expected to last for approximately two to four years, with a projected life-of-project (LOP) of 15 to 20 years.

Proposed Drilling Operations

Because this is a shallow gas project, approximately 5 to 7 days would be required to drill, log, and run casing for each well. Approximately three additional days would be required to run a bond log, perforate the well casing and run an electric pump. The estimated size of each drill site location is 200 feet by 300 feet, of which only those areas necessary to conduct drilling and completion operations would be cleared of vegetation. It is possible that some site disturbance may be required to place the drill rig on level ground; however, Anadarko would attempt to utilize existing access roads and well pads in order to minimize surface disturbance. A reserve pit would be constructed at each drill site location to hold drilling fluids and cuttings. The reserve pit would be approximately 50 feet wide by 100 feet long by 10 feet deep. Drilling depths would vary within the project area between approximately 1,500 feet and 4,500 feet. Water for drilling purposes would be obtained from three existing water source wells located within the Brady Unit.

Each well would be designed with a 4-inch water discharge line and gas line. Disposal of production water, if any, would be via existing and new injection wells. No surface disposal of production water is proposed. A separator may need to be placed at some or all well locations along with metering equipment.

Following drilling and completion, flowlines and gathering facilities would be installed. Equipment would be powered by electricity existing in the area although some new powerlines could be required. Gas lines would be tied into a compressor to be located in the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 11, Township 16 North, Range 101 West. High gas volumes would dictate any need for any additional compression or compressors.

Currently, the proposed project area is accessed by several existing roads. These roads are both developed and undeveloped. The gas produced within the Copper Ridge Project area would be transported by both new and existing pipelines and new and existing gathering lines. The operator would parallel existing pipelines and gathering lines whenever feasible. Because of existing development, access to the project would include use of existing roads and minimal construction of new roads.

Because the operator proposes to utilize existing access roads, well pads, pipelines gathering lines and pipeline or gathering line corridors of the Brady Field and the Jackknife Spring Field, surface disturbance for the proposed project is expected to be minimal. The operator expects that approximately 300 acres (of which approximately 138 acres will affect public lands managed by BLM) will be disturbed as a result of the Copper Ridge Project.

If the wells are non-productive or non-economical, they would be appropriately plugged and all disturbed areas would be recontoured, reseeded, and otherwise reclaimed to appropriate federal, state, or private landowner specifications.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Resource Management Plan - The document which directs management of federal lands within the Rock Springs Field Office is the approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Green River Resource Area (now the RSFO -USDI-BLM 1997). The objective for management of oil and gas resources, as stated in the RMP, is to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values. In addition, the RMP states public lands within the checkerboard area are open to mineral leasing and development (to promote mineral recovery) with appropriate mitigation on a case-by-case basis.

The development of natural gas within the Copper Ridge Project area is in conformance with the RMP. The environmental analysis that will be prepared for the proposed Copper Ridge Project proposal submitted by the operator will incorporate decisions, terms, and conditions of use as described in the RMP.

Use Authorizations - Use authorizations (i.e., rights-of-way, permits, etc.) for roads, powerlines, pipelines, and well site facilities would be processed through the BLM application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Sundry Notice permitting process as long as the facilities remain on-lease and are owned and operated by the unit operator. Any facility located off-lease would require individual rights-of-way permits.

Lease Stipulations - Some federal oil and gas leases within the proposed area may include special stipulations on occupancy. These stipulations are in addition to the standard lease terms and are designed to protect surface resources such as soils, water, and wildlife by restricting periods of activity and areas of disturbance. Application of these lease stipulations will be handled on a case-by-case basis for each APD submitted to the BLM.

National Environmental Policy Act

The proposed project will be analyzed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The

environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide the public and government agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and it will provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project.

One element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified by an interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists to date. The issues identified below are not meant to be an all-inclusive, but rather a starting point for public input:

- Potential increased traffic and associated impacts on existing county, state, and BLM roads.
- Potential socio-economic impacts to local communities.
- Potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources, including sedimentation/salinity to the Colorado River system.
- Potential impacts to sensitive soils within the project area.
- Potential impacts from emissions resulting from additional drilling and production activities.
- Potential impacts related to reclamation of disturbed areas and control of noxious weed invasions.
- Potential conflicts with livestock management operations in the analysis area, including possible impacts to range improvement projects.
- Potential impacts to cultural and historical values within the analysis area.
- Potential impacts to wildlife habitats within the analysis area, including big game, greater sage grouse, and raptors.
- Potential impacts to the Salt Wells Wild Horse Herd Management Area and wild horses.
- Potential impacts to listed, or proposed for listing, threatened and endangered plant and animal species, including potential Colorado River depletion and effects on downstream listed fish species.
- Potential cumulative effects of drilling and development activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on lands adjacent to the Copper Ridge project area.
- Potential conflicts between mineral development activities and recreational opportunities.

Interdisciplinary Team

Based on current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from other plans, an interdisciplinary team made up of the following specialists has been tentatively identified:

Air Quality Specialist
Soil Scientist

Range Management Specialist
Archeologist
Geologist
Realty Specialist
Recreation Planner
Wild Horse Specialist
Hydrologist
Petroleum Engineer
Wildlife Biologist
Environmental Scientist (surface protection)
Interdisciplinary Team Leader
Public Affairs Specialist

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Your comments are due by November 15, 2002. Please submit your comments to:

Address: Teri Deakins, Project Manager
BLM - Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: Teri_Deakins@blm.gov (Please add "Copper Ridge Project" in the Subject line)

Initial Mailing List

The scoping notice initial mailing distribution includes the following agencies, individuals, industries, organizations, and media:

Government Offices

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910, 912, 920, 930)
Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office
Office of the Governor
U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)

Elected and Other Officials

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River, Superior
Postmaster, Farson
State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Mark Harris, Tex Boggs
State Representatives: Stephen Watt, Fred Parady,
Sweetwater County Commissioners
Sweetwater County Planner
Sweetwater County Libraries, Green River, Rock Springs

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, Kate Legerski, Representative
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, Lyn Shanaghy, Representative
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Pati Smith, Representative

Public Land Users and User Groups

Rock Springs Grazing Association
People for the West
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
Native American Tribes: Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, Northern Arapaho, Shoshone-Bannock
Sierra Club, Northern Plains Representative
Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association
Wilderness Society
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Lands Council
Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club
Environmental Defense Fund
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

Newspapers

Pinedale Roundup
Sublette County Journal
Kemmerer Gazette
Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner
Casper Star-Tribune
Green River Star
Wyoming State Journal
Uinta County Herald

Radio Stations

KQSW/KRKK. Rock Springs
KMKX - Rock Springs
KUGR - Green River
KYCS - Rock Springs
KMER – Kemmerer
KRAL - Rawlins
KUWR - University of Wyoming

Television Stations

KTWO-TV - Casper
KCWY-TV - Casper
KFNB-TV - Casper
KGWC-TV - Casper
Sweetwater Television

